

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Tushar Patel et al.  
Application No. : 10/777,019  
Filed : February 11, 2004  
Entitled : TISSUE RETRACTOR AND  
GUIDE DEVICE

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned  
Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Certificate of Mailing (37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))

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May 5, 2004

By: 

Date of Signature and Mail Deposit

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Commissioner for Patents  
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 and attached hereto (copies of U.S. Patents and Publications cited are not provided as this application was filed after June 30, 2003).

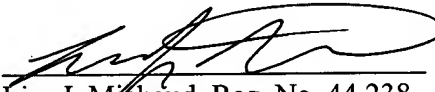
It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists, and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned (37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)), and thus no fees are

believed to be due. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 141449, under Order No. 101896-234.

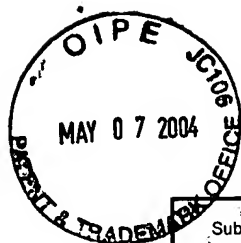
Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 5, 2004

  
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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet			1			of			1			Attorney Docket Number			101896-0234		
Application Number												10/777,019					
Filing Date												February 11, 2004					
First Named Inventor												Tushar Patel					
Art Unit												N/A					
Examiner Name												Not Yet Assigned					

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	AA	US-2,466,023	04-05-1949	Griffin	
	AB	US-4,502,475	03-05-1985	Weigle	
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	AI	US-5,851,207	12-22-1998	Cesarone	
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	AO	US-6,416,518	07-09-2002	DeMayo	
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	AR	US-2002/0049444	04-25-2002	Knox	
	AS	US-2002/0082606	06-27-2002	Suddaby	

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	BA	WO 03/007826	01-30-2003	SDGI Holdings, Inc.		

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

### NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
	CA	Product Literature, by SYNTHES Spine, <i>The Cervical Spine Locking Plate CSLP</i> , 2000	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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